



The Hongkong Telegraph

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SHARP BIG FOUR EXCHANGES

No Sign Of Progress In Effort To Frame Acceptable Agenda

COMMENT

The acute tension in Persia, dangerously approaching a stage of grave international consequence—more as the result of the activities of the fanatical Islamic Istiqlal sect than of direct Communist intrigue—will not altogether divert Western attention from the Balkans.

Massing of powerful Soviet forces in the Carpatho-Ukraine does not imply Moscow's active participation should it call the tune, but the menace of an attack designed as a second Korea is ever-present, and as the West could not stand idly by, the delicate situation poses many problems.

Yugoslavia has already made the official accusation that the Soviet satellites are applying "military pressure" and that such pressure exists seems clearly evident from the volume, content and virulence of Red propaganda against Marshal Tito recently. Much as Nazi Germany accused its intended victims of planning aggression and provocation, the Communist press has been full of similar charges against Yugoslavia.

The whole pattern of Moscow propaganda has, in fact, been disturbingly akin to that spread about South Korea last year. So long as the Tito Government remains in power—and nothing Russia has done has succeeded in raising internal opposition to "the lackey of the West"—the Kremlin must regard it as a most annoying rallying point for those who are nationalists as well as Communists and will not bend their knees completely to Moscow.

The urge to eliminate the danger must be great, particularly after the sudden schisms in the Italian branch of the Red International.

Whether Stalin is, in fact, prepared to surrender to starting another "war by proxy" cannot easily be determined. Even the Politburo must realise that an invasion of Yugoslavia would inevitably raise the spectre of rapid extension in the international arena today. But Russia would be well advised to shrink from precipitating events.

Gromyko Makes Long Attack Alleging Potsdam Violation

Paris, Mar. 19.

The "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' deputies made no progress again today at their 13th meeting to frame an agenda for four-Power talks.

No new proposals were made at the meeting which lasted four and a half hours, a French spokesman said, nor was agreement reached on any of the earlier proposals, he added.

DROUGHT RAVAGING N. BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Mar. 19.

Children are dying at the rate of 20 a day from hunger, thirst and disease caused by drought in the town of Patos in the interior of Ceara State in North Brazil, press reports said today. Rain has not fallen for more than six months in Ceara, and in another North-eastern State, Parahyba, where famine is also prevalent.

The authorities are alarmed at the possibility of plague in Ceara, where three cases of bubonic, two of them fatal, have already been reported.

Several towns are affected and hungry and thirsty peasants are threatening to assault and plunder large farms and village food shops.

Thousands of refugees are streaming to larger cities, abandoning their homes and plantations, ruined by the drought.

Despite emergency relief measures, it is believed that the situation in Ceara and Parahyba cannot improve without adequate assistance to the stricken areas.—Reuter.

CZECH'S VISA QUESTIONED

London, Mar. 19.

Mr James Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, said today that he granted Dr Bohuslav Kratochvil, former Czechoslovak Ambassador to India, a visa to stay in Britain because he thought that it was in the public interest.

Mr Hamilton Kerr, Conservative, had asked in the House of Commons why Dr Kratochvil had been granted a visa. He also wanted to know the reasons for giving him preference over other Czechoslovak refugees who had been in camps in Germany for some time.—Reuter.

Huge Arms Cache

Genoa, Mar. 19.

The Italian police today found about two tons of secret arms at the big Ansaldo shipbuilding works here as they continued a countrywide comb out.

This was the third arms dump unearthed at the Ansaldo plant within five weeks. Police seized 14 tons of arms on February 14 and another four tons earlier this month.—Reuter.

Mr Andrei Gromyko (Russia) made another long attack on the Western Powers, alleging violation of the Potsdam Agreement.

Dr Philip Jessup (United States) remarked towards the end of today's session that Mr Gromyko had resorted to a very convenient method of oratory—that of taking no notice of what was being said by the other side.

This meeting, at which M. Alexandre Parodi (France), acted as President, opened the third week of the deputies' talks to arrange the agenda for the proposed "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Dr Jessup said that the Western draft agenda would not prevent the Soviet Minister from raising all he wanted to discuss.

The Soviet delegation did not seem to be discussing whether the agenda was useful or adequate, but was objecting to it with some other purpose in mind, he added.

Dr Jessup said that the agenda should not be designed to dictate decisions to governments.

UNDER AN ILLUSION

He understood Mr Gromyko to have said on Saturday that if the Western deputies did not accept the wording of the Soviet agenda, public opinion would force the Western Governments to reconsider their decision. If Mr Gromyko really thought this he was under an illusion, Dr Jessup added.

Apart from public opinion controlled by Moscow, public opinion did not favour the policies the Soviet Government had been pursuing, he said.

The free world was directly opposed to its policies and especially to the threatening event which began on June 25 last (the Korean war).

Dr Jessup accused Russia of having violated the Potsdam Agreement in East Germany, particularly its provisions for demilitarisation. He recalled

that tomorrow was the third anniversary of the Russian walk-out from the Allied Control Council for Germany. This had completed the disruption of four-Power machinery in Germany, he said.

BRITISH ATTITUDE

Mr Ernest Davies (Britain) made the following points:

(1) The only remilitarisation which had taken place in Germany was in the Soviet zone.

(2) If German participation in Western defence was being discussed it was because Soviet action had compelled other nations to examine a means of assuring their security.

Mr Davies challenged Mr Gromyko's competence to judge public opinion in the Western countries.

Public opinion considered that the Western agenda was a reasonable basis for a meeting of Foreign Ministers and was mystified by Soviet intransigence, Mr Davies said.

Mr Gromyko spoke for more than one and a half hours, part (Continued on Page 8 Col. 2)

80 MPH Blizzard In Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta, Mar. 19.

Nine people were known to have died and one person was missing today as the Canadian prairie provinces began digging themselves out of one of the worst March blizzards on record.

The storm lashed the prairies with 80-mile an hour winds in freezing temperatures for two days and piled up deep snow, paralysing traffic and communications.

Some 38 persons on a Calgary bound train, snowbound since Friday near Oyen, Alberta, were rescued late last night.—Reuter.

Tactical Blockades In Berlin

Berlin, Mar. 19.

Nearly 100 barges from Communist East Germany were lined up and awaiting British clearance in four West Berlin canals today in what the Russians charged was a new "blockade."

British officials said they were merely "checking" the barges and they had replied to the formal Soviet note of protest.

An American transport official said, meanwhile, that the Soviets were "forced to back down" in their latest cold war move—an attempt to curtail Western rail traffic between Berlin and West Germany. The official said: "They tried some cold war finagling with trains, then they were forced to back down because they didn't have a leg to stand on. We put our trains through anyway."

operationally everything is absolutely normal as of now."—United Press.

Canada Can Do Little For Imprisoned Nuns

Ottawa, March 19.

A government spokesman said today that Canada could do "nothing official" to aid the five Canadian nuns supposedly charged with manslaughter by the Chinese Communists in Canton.

The Department of External Affairs said the British envoy in Peking had been asked to seek confirmation from the "Central People's Government" of reports that five sisters of the Order of the Immaculate Conception were imprisoned.

The Department pointed out however, "it would be senseless to give any one the idea that there was much we could do. Everything possible will be done by our people and the British representatives there. Canada has no direct representative in Peking, and has never recognised the Peking regime. Since Red China is not a member of the United Nations, no accusations can have any effect there."

The Department of External Affairs had received no official confirmation that the nuns, who operated an orphanage in Canton, were being held.

Government officials here said British officials had been asked to make special representations to the Peking government for a full report on the nuns. Meanwhile government officials were conferring with the Mother Superior of the Catholic order in Montreal in an effort to get more details.

A government spokesman said Canadians in China had been warned several times through official channels to leave China after the Communists won control.—United Press.

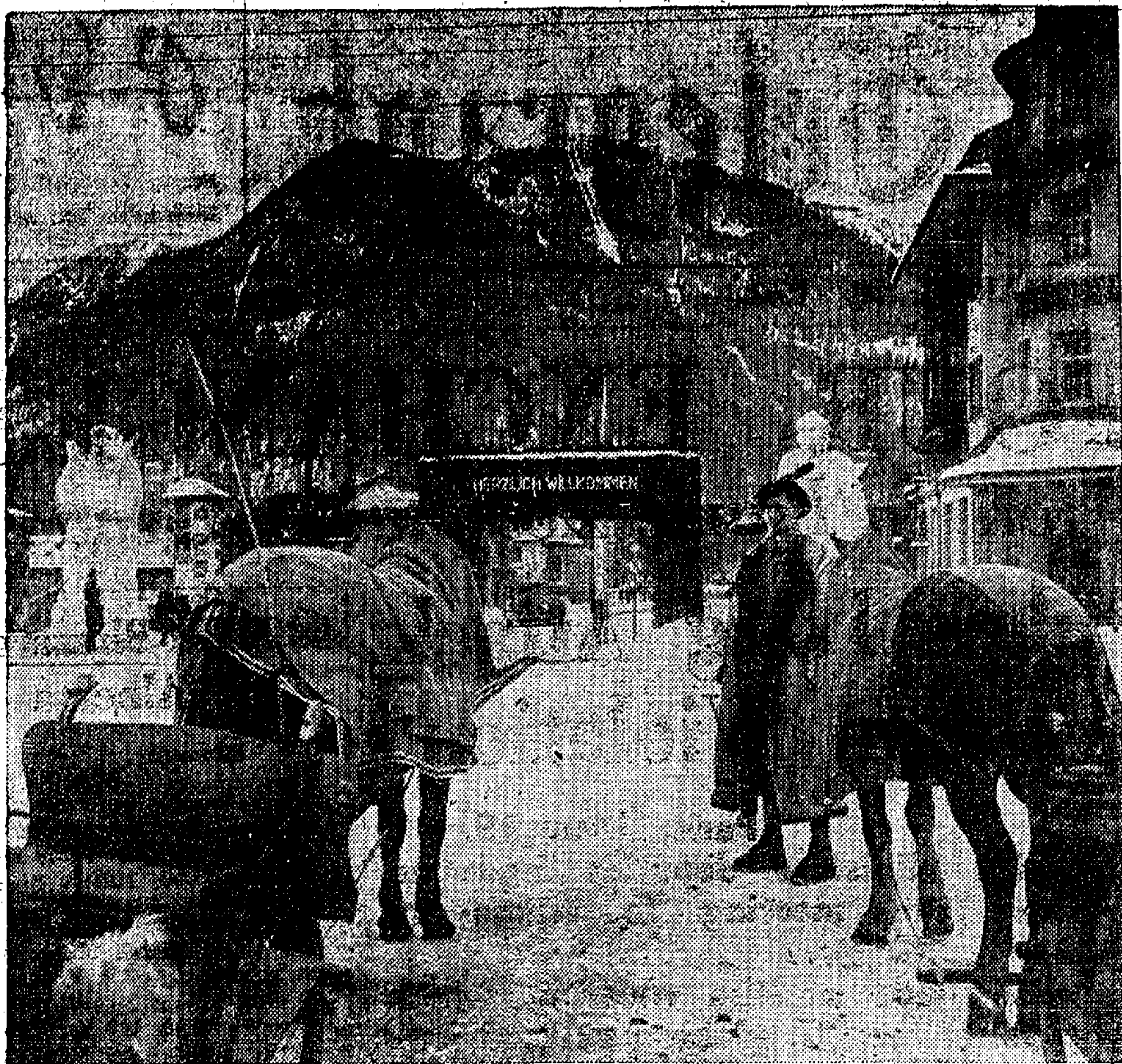
STOP PRESS

Martial Law In Persia Possible

Teheran, Mar. 19.

The surgeon operating on Dr Abdul Hamid Zangeneh said the Minister's liver and intestines pierced by the bullet were now patched and with a blood transfusion his condition had improved. It was reported the Shah would possibly declare martial law.—United Press.

Sleigh-Taxis Await Customers



These sleigh owners in Garmisch, Germany, hire them out as taxis and expect good business during the International Sports Week. Here they wait at the Ice Stadium for customers.

NEGOTIATED IRAN SOLUTION STILL HOPED FOR

Fifty-Fifty Profit Sharing Basis Still On Cards

London, Mar. 19.

The Foreign Office has received a preliminary report from the British Ambassador in Persia, Sir Francis Shepherd, on last week's decision of the Majlis (Parliament) to nationalise the oil industry, but is awaiting a further full report, it was understood here today.

Until this is received, the matter is thought unlikely to go before the Cabinet. Informed quarters today thought the British Government would not make any move until after Easter.

The situation created by the Majlis' decision was being fully discussed by Sir Francis Shepherd with the US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr George McGhee, who is now visiting Teheran.

There were hopes in London that some form of negotiated solution might be possible.

British experts believe that the Majlis' decision was taken before the offer of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company to con-

sider a 50:50 profit sharing basis for the oil concession with the Persian authorities had become fully known.

This offer was reaffirmed in the British note delivered in Teheran on the eve of the Majlis' decision but was believed here to have received no publicity at any stage of the recent negotiations.

Some observers here argued that any Persian Government would run into very serious financial and technical difficulties if the Anglo-Iranian concession were abruptly terminated.

The company and the British authorities were believed to be willing to contemplate very substantial modifications in the existing concession as a means to a fresh settlement.—Reuter.

RIDICULOUS CHARGE

Washington, Mar. 19.

The State Department today dismissed the Soviet charge that the United States was responsible for the assassination of General Ali Razmara, the Persian Prime Minister, as "just another of Pravda's screwy editorials."

The comment was made by the Department's spokesman. He added, "Where they get such ideas no sane person can understand." Pravda said in an editorial yesterday that Razmara had been murdered by people "closely connected" with American influence in Persia.—Reuter.

THREE BULLETS

Teheran, Mar. 19.

A six-foot Divinity student who today shot down a former Persian Education Minister on the University steps, said tonight, "I will talk only on my way to the gallows."

The man he wounded, Dr Abdol Hamid Zangeneh, President of the University, was Minister of Education under the recently assassinated Premier, Ali Razmara.

The student was tonight in a police cell while his victim is in a Teheran hospital where his condition was said to be serious.

A door-keeper seized the youth, Nostratullah Qumi, after he had fired three times. Only one bullet hit Dr Zangeneh, entering under a kidney. He was operated on and the kidney removed.

Qumi's first shot jammed and the second hit another student.—Reuter.

Peking Trip For Tibetan Chiefs

New Delhi, Mar. 19.

Kunsang Tse, the Tibetan Commander-in-Chief, and another member of the Tibetan mission to Communist China have arrived at Kalimpong, on the Indian-Tibetan border, en route to Peking, the newspaper "Statesman" reported on Monday.

Kunsang Tse and Trunk Chhempo Lautra, a high-ranking Tibetan monk, proceeded to Kalimpong from Yatung, the temporary seat of the Dalai Lama, and were expected to leave for Peking soon.—United Press.

Faisal To Have No Truck With Iran Oil Tactics

Cairo, Mar. 19.

Prince Faisal, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, said here today that the nationalisation of the Persian oil industry "will not affect the future of the Saudi Arabian oilfields in the least."

Prince Faisal, son of King Ibn Saud, said that the Saudi Arabian oilfields, exploited by the Arabian-American Oil Company, produced 35,141,341 barrels of crude oil during the first two months of this year—more than all the Middle East oil wells combined.

Egypt, one of the oil-producing countries of the Middle East, was today watching events in Persia and possible repercussions in the Arab countries, particularly Iraq, where the Prime Minister, Nuri Es Said Pasha, was due to reply to a question by the deputy leader of the Nationalist Party, asking whether in view of the "courageous step" taken by Persia, the Iraqi Government was planning of nationalising the oil industry.

The nationalisation of Persian oil was a subject of editorial comment in the Egyptian press today.

Misry wrote: "As the British Government has taken over the coal mines in Britain, and the Iranian Government is taking over the oilfields in Iran, the Egyptian Government must take over the Suez Canal as well as other foreign concessions, paying fair compensations to shareholders."

"LEGITIMATE"

The newspaper added: "Nationalisation is a legitimate step taken by civilised countries and no one in the world can blame us for nationalising the Suez Canal Company, whose concession terminates in 1969."

"What is right in Britain could not be wrong in Egypt, and what Iran can do Egypt also can do."

Observers here believed that the Egyptian Government was most reluctant to embark on a nationalisation policy. But observers thought that the recent events in Persia would

strengthen the hand of the Arab Governments in their negotiations with the Western powers regarding the concessions they hold.—Reuter.

SLEEPS WITH EYES OPEN

East Alton, Illinois, Mar. 19.

Mervin Opel, 22-year-old son of Mrs Mayme Opel, has been discharged from the Army because he sleeps with his eyes open, his mother said today.

Mrs Opel said her son's eyelids began to weaken four years ago when he was a college student.

Doctors grafted muscles from his legs into his eyelids, she said, and now he can close them when he sleeps. Opel was drafted last October.—United Press.

Britain & Israel Indemnity Claim

London, Mar. 19.

The Minister of State, Mr Kenneth Young, said today that Britain would give "sympathetic consideration" to Israel's demand for \$1,500,000,000 in indemnity from Germany for the murder and torture of Jewish victims by the Nazis.

However, he told the House of Commons that he could not at present "give any assurances on behalf of His Majesty's Government regarding the inclusion of particular provisions in any eventual peace treaty with Germany."—United Press.

Life In Red Society

Tokyo, Mar. 19.

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Shigeru Yoshida, today likened life in Communist society to life in the animal kingdom.

Speaking before the national meeting of the Youth Section of the Liberal Party, Mr Yoshida said that the Communists were trying to drive mankind back to medieval living standards.—Reuter.

Melting Pot Of World Switches

New York, Mar. 19.

Israel had succeeded New York as the "melting pot" of the world, the New York Mayor, Mr Vincent Impellitteri, told a United Jewish Appeal rally here.

He called for swift United States aid to Israel for long-term investment. "It is a tribute to the courage and spirit of the people of Israel that they can undertake to give refuge to such overwhelming numbers," he declared.—Reuter.

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TO-DAY

King's

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7.20 & 9.30
P.M.



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TO-DAY

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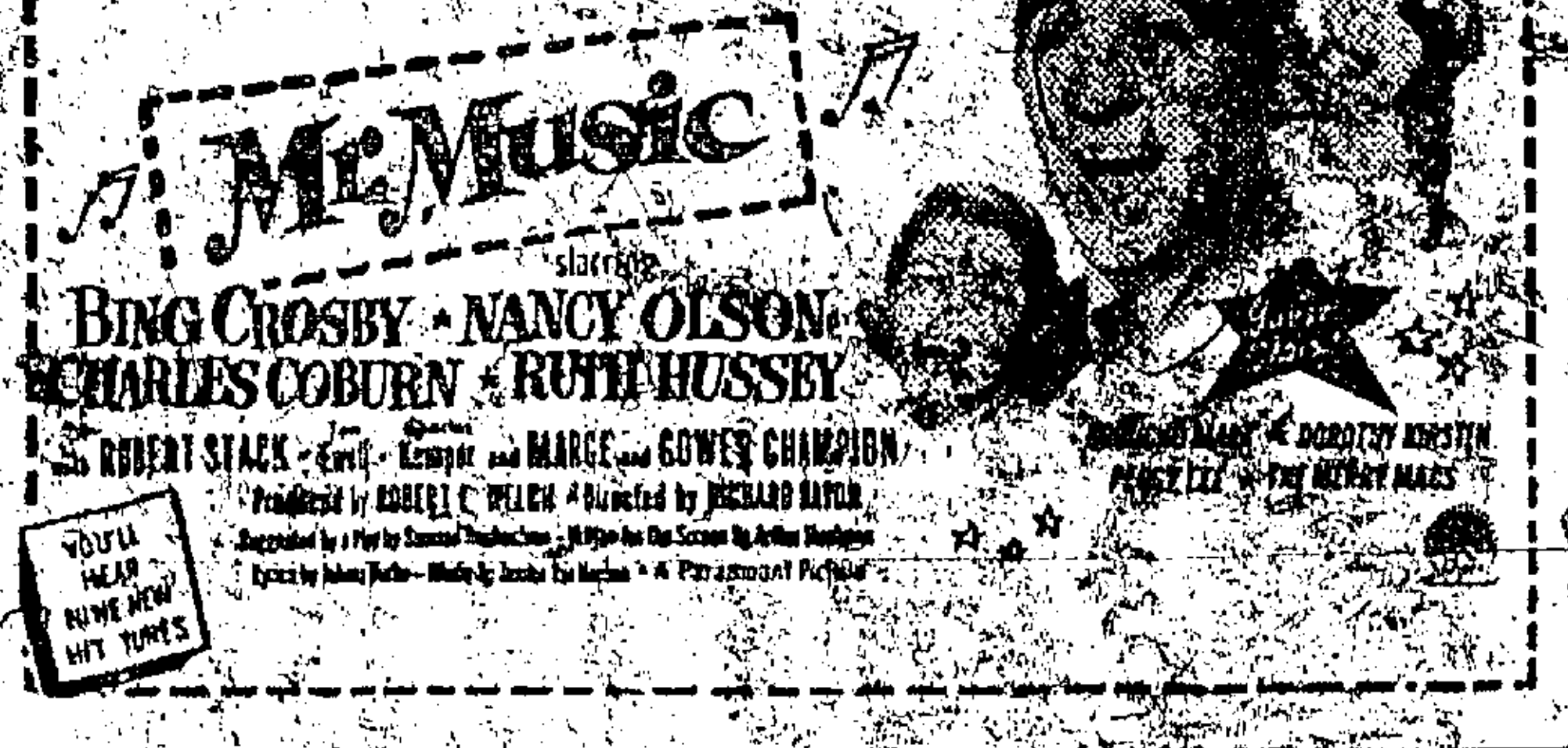
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Communist Resistance Met At Several Points: Advance Goes On

British Racing Swindle Probe

SHARP JAVA FIGHTING

New Manoeuvre Possible To End Action In Korea

Mr. Liao said he had not yet decided whether such a request was possible and would be an alternative to the growing efforts to make peace, but that the Korean diploma decides to go ahead, he may receive new suggestions on how to end the war in Korea and one of them may be a proposal that the United Nations should negotiate with the North Korean authorities rather than with the South.

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A spokesman at the Eighth Army Headquarters said that the United Nations approach "is to focus a lot of political questions involving the entire world."

Change In Command

London, Mar. 19.
Vice-Admiral Matthias Gard-
ner took command of the
American Mediterranean fleet
on Monday, relieving Vice-Ad-
miral John D. Ballentine who re-
turns to the United States.—
United Press.



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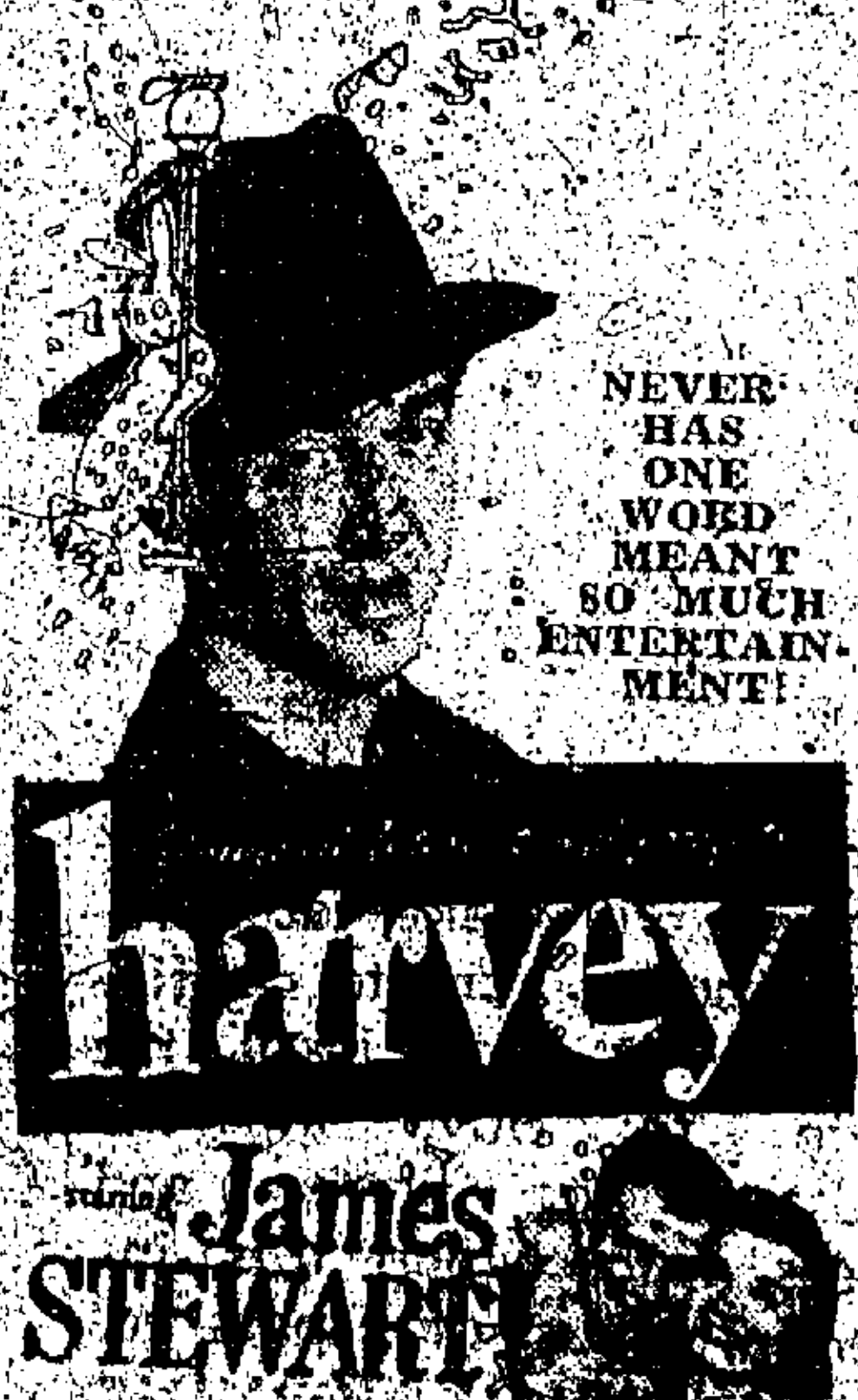
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A 20th Century-Fox Picture

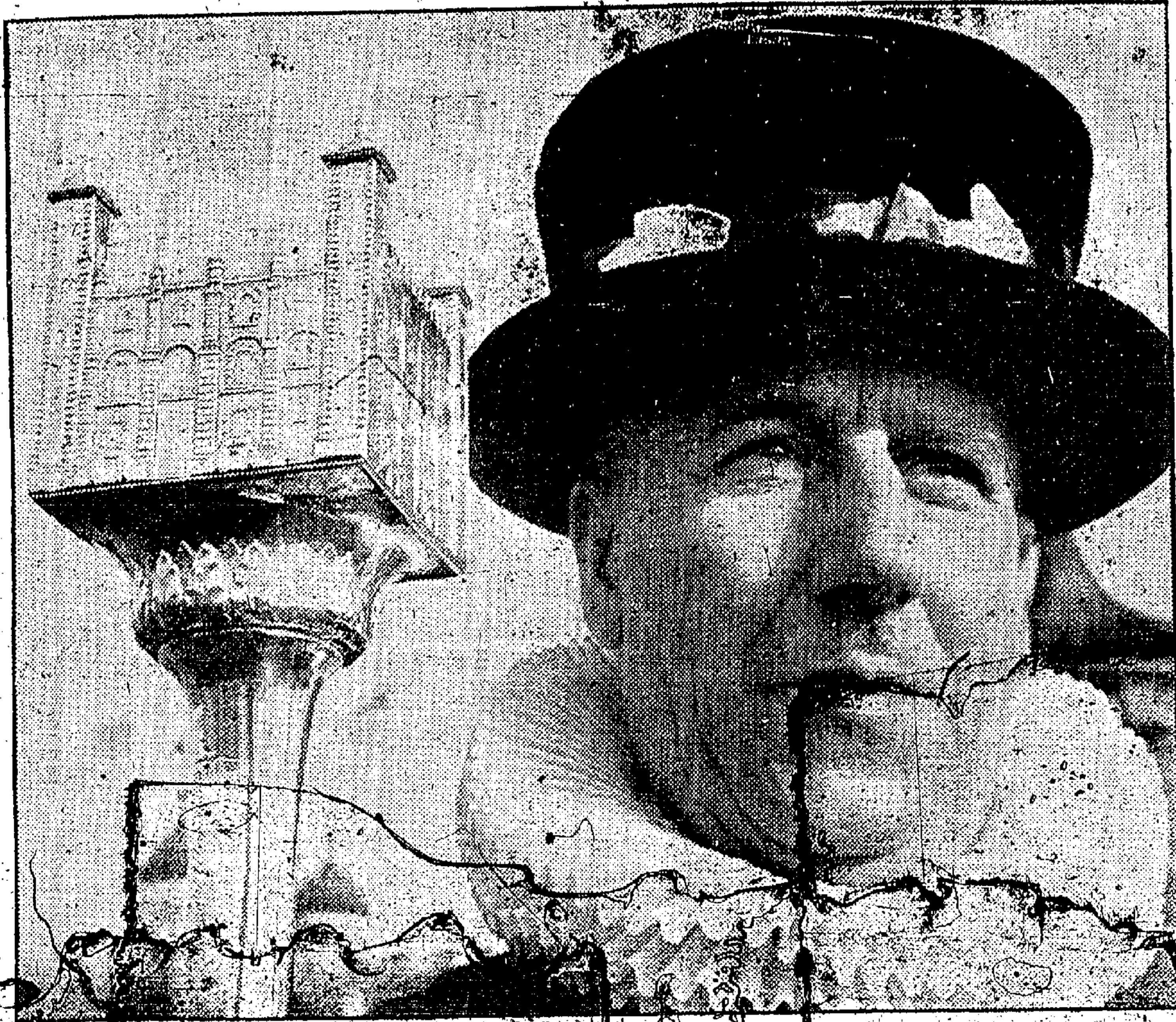
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Chief Warder In Historic Garb



The Chief Warder of the Tower of London, wearing the picturesque garb still seen there and bearing in his hand a mace surmounted with a model of the old fortress.

Burmese Opposition's Stay-In Strike In Parliament

Rangoon, Mar. 19.

Troops tonight surrounded the Burmese Parliament, where 18 Opposition Members had begun a 26-hour "stay in" strike as a protest against the "curtailment of Parliamentary privileges."

At three o'clock this afternoon, U Aung Than, the elder brother of the late General Aung San and leader of the joint Independents and left-wing Opposition, announced that he and his group would stay in their seats until five o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

He gave three reasons for the demonstration. Several proposals for the benefit of the masses had been refused hearing in Parliament; adequate time for a discussion of important international events had not been provided; and "we are restricted unfairly by many means in this Parliament."

U Aung Than rejected the Speaker's appeal to move out of Parliament House.

The Speaker of the Burmese Parliament, U Mya, said to-night that he did not "propose to take any action" against those Opposition Members demonstrating inside the Parliament House.

There was no expressed rule or regulation prohibiting Members from sitting in the House, he said. "It is their House and they can sit peacefully inside it any time they want," he said.

CORDONED OFF

He added that he had instructed police officers to keep watch on the security of the House and to prevent the entry of outsiders.

Under the military authorities cordoned off the Parliament House area and posted sentries at different doors of the buildings.

Two hours after the demonstration started, a sympathiser brought the Members food. Sentries closely examined the parcels before allowing them to be taken inside. — Reuter.

GETTING IN TRIM FOR POSSIBLE SQUALLS

Frankfurt, Mar. 19.

American troops in Germany are engaged in almost continuous war manoeuvres these days under a new programme which whip them into fighting trim. — Reuter.

Men of the reactivated Seventh Army now have an expanded field training programme.

"I want you to understand clearly that the Seventh Army must be prepared to fight," Lt-General Manton Eddy, Seventh Army commander, told his men in a message distributed among the troops.

He said the army must be prepared to "farm with our allies a fighting force ready to defend freedom."

Evidence of the expanded programme can be seen in almost every area of the American Zone. Troops in regiment and battalion strength can be seen rolling down highways. Machineguns mounted on their vehicles and their tanks and half-tracks are manoeuvring in the woods and fields.

The men practise setting up machinegun and aircraft emplacements, construction of pontoon bridges, simulated demolitions of bridges and highways and making sham attacks.

Six months ago a visitor could drive across most of Germany without seeing a single American tank or gun or plane. There was no more menacing the roads than more menacing the jeep.

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Bonn, March 19.

Reliable sources declared tonight that the Western Allies had asked German military experts to draw up preliminary plans for a German tactical air force and navy in addition to the ground units to serve under General Dwight Eisenhower.

The request was made three days ago at a confidential meeting of a joint Allied-German Technical Military Committee.

The job of the group is to find previous meeting emphasis had a workable way of absorbing German military experts into the Western European arm. In the committee's

POLICE CLASH IN BEIRUT

Beirut, Mar. 19.

Three persons were killed, two seriously injured, and a score of others wounded in Sunday's clash between the Lebanese and the Syrian army. The Lebanese army, which is now in the process of being retrained by the British, was the victor in the clash.

The situation was soon in hand. Twenty were arrested, and the rest of the Syrian army was expelled. — United Press.

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New Phase In Relations With Spain

Washington, Mar. 19.

United States-Spanish relations are entering a "new phase," the State Department said today amid reports that the two countries were discussing military co-operation.

Authorities said Spain was interested in getting free weapons from the United States. The Spaniards feel that this would strengthen the Spanish ground forces so that they might be able to become part of the Western European defence forces.

Mr. Stanton Griffiths, the newly appointed United States Ambassador to Madrid, conferred last Wednesday with Generalissimo Francisco Franco. The conversation was immediately reported to the press.

He said that the United States was making no effort to deny them.

The State Department spokesman Michael McDermott, recalled the testimony of Mr. Acheson before Congressional committees on February 26 outlining the American attitude towards Spain and indicating hope for military co-operation.

Mr. Acheson had said that the objective of associating Spain with Western European defence could be an accomplishment but would depend on the actions of many nations—the North Atlantic Treaty partners and Spain herself. — Reuter and United Press.

United Press

United Press

United Press

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United Press

THROWN In U.S. Building

Baghdad, Mar. 19.

A hand grenade exploded in the United States Information Service (USIS) office here today, wounding four persons. No Americans were hurt.

Fifty students were in the reading room when the grenade exploded. The explosion shattered a glass door.

The American Embassy in Baghdad reported that a pineapple grenade was tossed by an "unidentified person" and that the Iraqi police are investigating. — United Press.

United Press

United Press

United Press

Stage A Demonstration

Nicosia, Mar. 19.

A group of unemployed Cypriots staged a demonstration outside the office of the Commissioner of the Police today after being refused entry to the office.

The demonstrators, many of whom were accompanied by their families, were outside the office for several hours.

"We are hungry. Give us food," they shouted. — Reuter.

United Press

United Press

United Press

United Press

PAKISTAN CUTTING INCOME TAX

Duties To Be Abolished Or Varied: "Out Of The Red"

Encouraging Advance Shown By Finance Minister In Budget Speech

Karachi, Mar. 19.

Pakistan will reduce income tax generally during the coming financial year, the Finance Minister, Mr Ghulam Mohammed, told a cheering Constituent Assembly here today.

No new taxation would be imposed and—with a budget surplus of 207,400,000 rupees—a number of duties would be abolished or reduced and special sums set aside for economic and social development as well as defence.

"Pakistan has marched from strength to strength," the Minister declared. "In the fourth year of her existence, she stands stronger than ever before in the financial and economic fields."

"The country has every reason to face the future with confidence, provided the people continue to show the same spirit of discipline, initiative and devotion to the national cause as they have done in the past."

Revenue for 1952 was estimated at 1,598,500,000 rupees and expenditure at 1,391,100,000 rupees.

Reorganisation and consolidation of the defence forces continued during the past year and the nationalisation of the defence forces had made substantial progress, Mr Ghulam Mohammed said.

In next year's budget 620 million rupees under capital had been provided for defence, including the expansion of the Air Force and the Navy and for ordnance factories.

Of the present surplus, the Minister said, 75 million rupees would be used to build an aircraft factory and to manufacture tanks and heavy guns.

IMPORT POLICY

Mr Ghulam Mohammed reported "a welcome change in our balance of payments position." Balance of payments in previous years had been unfavorable, making it necessary to draw on the sterling balances, but larger exports of cotton and better prices for raw commodities had produced a favorable balance this year without any restrictions on imports.

The price level of consumer goods had been kept in check because of Pakistan's non-devaluation decision and the liberalisation of her import policy, he added.

The Minister recommended his budget proposals for the financial year beginning on April 1, that 340 million rupees be spent on social and economic development in addition to special grants of about 80 million rupees to provincial governments (scheme).

A special contribution of 50 million rupees was proposed for refugee rehabilitation and substantial provisions made for building, education and in-

dustrial, agricultural and banking programmes.

Emphasis was placed on education, medical, technical and housing needs.

Mr Ghulam Mohammed proposed abolishing all duty on coal, coke, pitch and tar, plumbago and graphite, pig iron, iron alloys and iron compounds, also on shipping required for inland water transport and on some industrial minerals.

He recommended reduced duties for artificial silk yarn, aluminium bars and blocks and various metals, mineral and chemical ingredients needed in industry.

Tariff values for hides and skins on which export duty is now based would be abolished and future duty would be changed on their real values. —Reuter.

Togliatti's "Gesture"

Milan, Mar. 19.

The Italian Communist leader, Palmiro Togliatti, in his first speech since returning from a two-month stay in Moscow, said today that the Communists would quit their opposition to the government if Italy made a "radical change" in foreign policy.

Togliatti obviously meant Italian withdrawal from the Atlantic Pact. At a meeting of the Communist Party of Milan, he said:

"We want to collaborate with Italians of all tendencies to avoid catastrophe. We declare we are ready to withdraw our opposition in Parliament and in the country to the government which would change radically the foreign policy of Italy so as to avoid Italy being drawn into the whirlpool of a new conflict." —United Press.

Barcelona's Anti-Franco Protest

Barcelona, Mar. 19.

Some 200 workers are still in gaol after the "cost of living" strikes and riots. All other prisoners have been released in a conciliatory move designed, observers believed, to stress the government's sympathy on the problems which caused the walkout.

The government made clear its intention to keep the Catalan labour front in line with the arrival here of the new governor, General Franco, and the new chief of police, Rafael Huelmo. Both said the complete trust of Generalissimo Franco.

As they pressed for their new jobs, well-informed sources said, it was clear that the Barcelona strike represented a definite protest against the government's management of national affairs.

These sources said the workers were also upset by charges of serious graft in, for example, the distribution of food, in which several hundred thousand head of cattle were said to have been smuggled to France and Portugal.

The government's hot cleaning here included the firing of Claudio Sanchez, a provincial delegate of the Labour Syndicates in Barcelona, and Jose Sala, a local councillor.

Charged After Seven Years

Paris, Mar. 19.

A former German Army officer, Fritz Rameke, appeared today in French Court charged with having organised or tolerated atrocities committed by the German forces under his command in 1944.

The 71-year-old commander was held in observation in a Berlin boarding house since his capture when he left it in 1945. He was being held in a press conference against the French justice.

He returned to Paris free will on March 9 after being arrested. —Reuter.



It looks very complicated but isn't to Joan Smart, one of the skilled workers in a British armament factory. Joan is seen milling a breech block. —Central Press Photo.

Secret War Disaster

Naples, Mar. 19.

Court records today showed details of what may have been the worst railway tragedy in history—death by suffocation of 521 persons when an Italian passenger train was stalled in a tunnel during the war.

The tragedy was described in war-time secrets but today revealed 300 suits against the State-owned railways. Suits reaching the Court of Appeals in Naples revealed the whole story.

The train was stalled on March 2, 1944, in the two-mile-long Balvano tunnel, south of Salerno, during the night run from Naples to Potenza. The passengers were asleep. The train lost momentum and began to slip backward downhill into the tunnel.

The engineer applied the brakes; then applied full power to gain traction again. Thick coal smoke poured from the engine into the tunnel. The engineer, apparently asphyxiated in a few seconds, was found dead, with his hand on the controls.

Almost all passengers were also asphyxiated—only about six survived. The victims were buried in two common graves, one for men and one for women, in the tiny cemetery at Balvano. —United Press.

Red Officials Murdered

Prague, Mar. 19.

The State Court, sitting at Kosice, in Slovakia, has sentenced a man to death for the murder of the chairman of the national committee in the village of Plasa.

Five others got from two to 15 years' imprisonment on charge of complicity. Three persons convicted of murdering the chairman of the national committee at Reubalova in Bratislava were executed three days ago. Three others were sentenced to death on March 15 for the murder of two village co-operative officials in the Gashan district of Bohemia. —Reuter.

Rising Cost Of Newsprint

Cairo, Mar. 19.

All dailies published in Egypt will be limited to six pages effective from April 1 due to the high cost of newsprint.

The price of the daily newspapers will be increased simultaneously by 50 percent. —United Press.

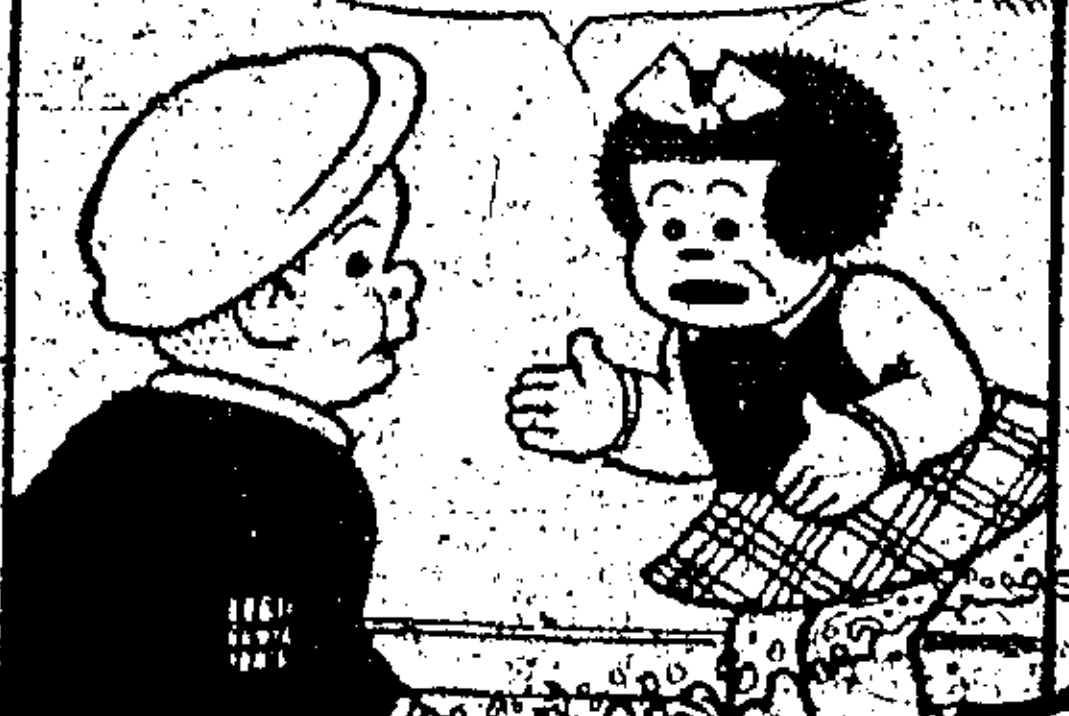
NANCY

Jumping to Conclusions

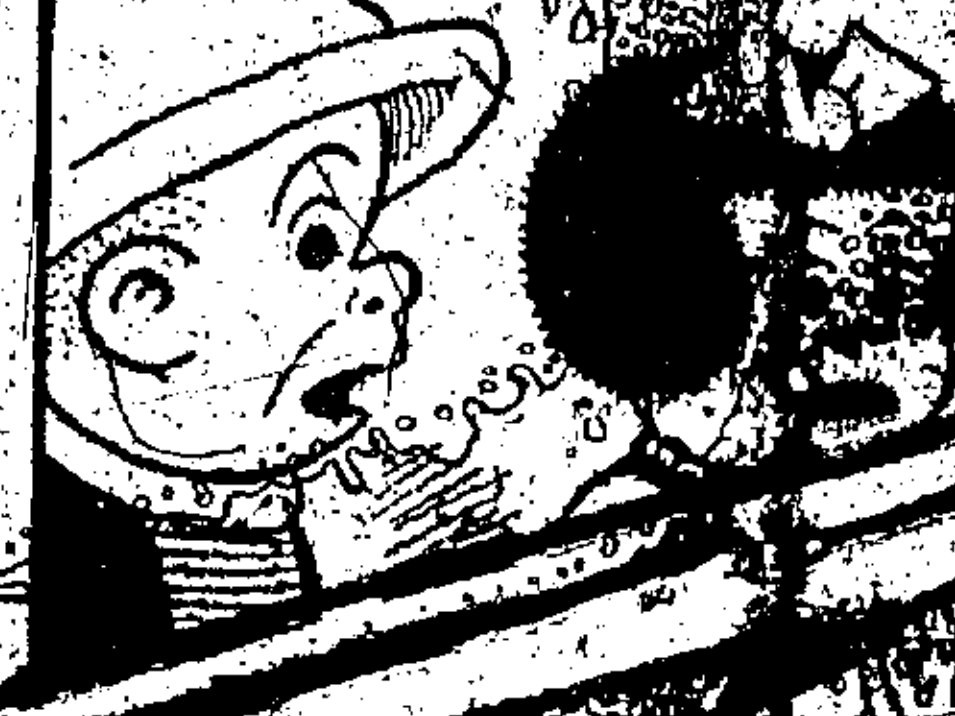
MY GOLDFISH ARE BEHAVING VERY STRANGELY



THEY DON'T ACT LIKE GOLDFISH-- I THINK THEY'RE SALMON--



THEY'RE TRYING TO GO UPSTREAM



By Ernie Bushmiller



When there's biff I needn't use my fist!



FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Burma's Move In Oil Field Issue Evokes Little Enthusiasm

London, Mar. 19.

The Government was asked in the House of Commons today whether it would accede to the request of the Prime Minister of Burma for a British Government loan "to enable the Burma Government to buy a share in the Burmah Oil Company."

The questioner was Mr Frederick Erroll, Conservative.

Mr Kenneth Younger, Minister of State, replied: "I understand the Burmese Prime Minister has informed Parliament of his desire to borrow £5,000,000 from the British Government with a view to participation in the oil industry in Burma jointly with the Burmah Oil Company. We have not so far received any formal request from the Burmese Government for a loan for this purpose, and we cannot reach any decision until we have received details of the Burmese Government's proposals."

Mr Erroll said that this was an attempt to get the British Government to pay for Burmese nationalisation.

Mr Younger said: "I would rather not draw any inferences until I have seen the Burmese Government's proposals."

Mr Woodrow Wyatt, Labour, said that the project for nationalising oil in Burma over a long period of years was a model scheme of its kind. This was expropriation without compensation.

Mr Younger said that he would keep Mr Wyatt's comment in mind.—Reuter.

N.Y. COTTON FUTURES

New York, Mar. 19.

The ascent of old crop July delivery to the ceiling level of 45.39 cents a pound for the first time since trading was resumed ten days ago dominated the picture in cotton futures today. The action brought covering movement in the new crop position, lifting them around \$2 a bale from the early lows to close the market on note of firmness.

Market experts saw little in the news to account for the turnaround apart from July development. They said trading in later months was originating mostly among day traders and local scalpers who run either way with the least encouragement. Trade interests had been slow to take hold of later deliveries. They apparently want to get better measure on the crop picture before forming any definite conclusions. Meanwhile, they limit most their business to the intra-month switching operations.

Prices closed today as follows:

Spot	46.05
March	45.38-45.39 bid
May	45.39 bid
October	41.79-41.81
March (1952)	40.84
May	40.65
July	40.25

—United Press.

COTTON MOVE

Washington, Mar. 19.

The Southern Agriculture Commissioners today asked the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Charles Brannan, to boost the support price for cotton to 40 cents a pound. The present price is 30 cents which is 90% of the parity.

Mr Tom Linder of Georgia, who headed the Commissioners, in a visit to Mr Brannan, said the Secretary was "sympathetic".—United Press.

New York Foreign Exchange

	Closing rate March 19.
Canada (dollar)	US\$0.95%
England—official	2.80-3/16
England—unofficial	2.52 bid-2.54 asked
30-day futures	2.80-7/16
90-day futures	2.81
Australia (pound)	2.24%
New Zealand (pound)	2.79%
South Africa (pound)	2.80%
Belgium (franc)	.0188
Denmark (krone)	.1455
France (franc)	.0035%
West German	
Deutschmark	4.20
Holland (guilder)	.2628
Italy—official	.1106%
Norway (krone)	.1405
Portugal (escudo)	.0550
Spain (peseta)	.0265
Sweden (krone)	.0937
Switzerland—free	.2318
Middle East	
Egypt (pound)	2.38%
Iran (rial)	.03125
Iraq (dinar)	.231
Turkey (lira)	.5375
Latin America	
Argentina—official	.0750
Brazil (cruzado)	.0550
Bolivian (boliviano)	
Chile—free	.1170
Colombia (peso)	.51%
Cuba (peso)	1.00
Mexico (peso)	.1158
Peru—free	.0685
Uruguay (peso)	.5050
Venezuela (bolivar)	.2005
Far East	
India (rupee)	.2103
Pakistan (rupee)	.2030
Hongkong	.1755
Netherlands East	
Indies	.3040
Singapore	.3395
Japan	360 yen to US\$1

—United Press.

LONDON TIN MARKET

London, Mar. 19.

The tin market on a very little business turned very weak. Turnover was 35 tons, including 10 tons for spot.

Prices closed today here at the end of the official morning session as follows:

Spot tin, buyer	1.255
Spot tin, seller	1.260
Business done at	1.255-1.430
Three-months tin, buyer	1.150
Three-months tin, seller	1.160
Business done at	1.170-1.160
Settlement	1.255

—United Press.

Singapore Rubber Futures

Singapore, Mar. 19.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:

Number 1 rubber per lb.	
March	214-215
April	210-211
May	206-207
Number 2 rubber, March	204-205
Number 3 rubber, March	193-194
Number 4 rubber, March	183-184
Spot rubber, unbled	218-220
Black crepe	150-152
No. 1 pale crepe	220-230

—United Press.

'EISENHOWERVILLE' TO BE BUILT IN 90 DAYS

GANGS of blue-overalled French labourers this week lifted the first spadefuls of earth in Marly Forest, ten miles west of Paris. Work on one of the most important military headquarters of recent times had begun.

The fate of the civilised world today depends on the success or failure of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's twelve-nation headquarters, S.H.A.P.E. (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe) perhaps more than on any other military organisation in history.

As S.H.A.P.E. has been uniquely formed in peace-time to prevent a war it has two chances to save the Western world. Firstly, by rapidly rearming an undefended Europe it is hoped that S.H.A.P.E. will cause the men in the Kremlin to think twice before attacking; and secondly, if Soviet Russia still decides to attack, S.H.A.P.E.—commanding all Western European defence forces—must break the impetus and halt the invading Communist armies.

These two chances of victory depend largely on speed. At S.H.A.P.E. speed is the keynote, with everything being done at the double.

As French workmen digging in Marly Forest pause for a swig of red wine from the bottles that seldom leave their side the foreman shouts "De pechez-vous," hurry up!

Beauty Spot

The Supreme Commander has ordered the large prefabricated town (100,000 square feet of office space and barracks for 600 men), already nicknamed "Eisenhowerville," to be completed in ninety days.

This G.H.Q. which has started to rise in Marly Forest—a beauty spot where the French President, M. Auriol, hunts during the week-end—will consist of one-storey American prefabs and have the appearance of "Ike's" S.H.A.P.E. at Bushey Park before the invasion.

CHICAGO GRAIN FUTURES

Chicago, Mar. 19.

Prices of grain futures closed here today as follows:

Wheat—price per bushel	
Spot	2.42
May	2.42% ¹ / ₂
September	2.39% ¹ / ₂
December	2.42% ¹ / ₂

Corn

Spot	1.78%
March	1.73% bid
May	1.76% ¹ / ₂
July	1.73%
December	1.65%

Rye

July	1.81-1.80% ¹ / ₂
------	--

Oats

March	95%
May	93% ¹ / ₂

New York Flour—per 200 lb. sack, \$13.10.—United Press.

Anglo-Egyptian Agreement

London, Mar. 19.

The House of Commons will tomorrow debate the Anglo-Egyptian financial agreement announced last Thursday.

Under this, Britain is to release £150 million worth of the sterling balances to Egypt in the next 13½ years.

Conservative Members have been pressing for a debate before the agreement is ratified.—Reuter.

By Henry Thody

To reduce red-tape, General Eisenhower ordered a slim S.H.A.P.E. for his G.H.Q. He ruthlessly slashed the Washington-planned 600-officer strength to a 200-strong force. Working with these 200 officers will be 600 other ranks of twelve nations.

S.H.A.P.E. has taken over operational command of all Western European defence forces, including British troops in Western Germany, Austria and Trieste by March 15—before "Eisenhowerville" is completed.

A number of Scottish battalions on the Continent has thus come under General Eisenhower's command.

General Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, Lieut-General Alfred Maximilian Gruenther, told me the other day that S.H.A.P.E. was being modelled on the lines of our Field-Marshal Montgomery's G.H.Q. at Fontainebleau.

There will be five assistant chiefs of staff in charge of five departments. These are: (1) Intelligence, (2) Plans and Operations, (3) Organisation and Training, (4) Personnel, (5) Logistics. Only the logistics, or supply group, will be headed by an American.

At the time of writing the heads of the five all-important "bureaux" of S.H.A.P.E. have not been officially named, although it is understood that the chief of intelligence will be Major-General Sir Terence S. Airey, British Commander of Trieste Free Territory.

Intelligence

After failures of U.S. intelligence services in Korea, the choice of this Britain as "I" chief is welcome.

I have had the occasion to meet General Airey many times in Trieste since the end of the war. Besides being an able diplomatic administrator, he is regarded as Britain's leading intelligence officer.

During the war he planned daring operations in the Balkans, and he entered Switzerland to conduct armistice negotiations with the Germans.

Although the initial organisation of S.H.A.P.E. has been carried out mainly by American staff officers, when "Eisenhowerville" is completed there will be an equal number of British, French and American officers in command, as well as representatives from all the North Atlantic Pact Powers, including Iceland, Luxembourg and Portugal.

Today there are only fifteen British staff officers and fifteen other ranks at S.H.A.P.E.

Until "Eisenhowerville" is completed, temporary headquarters of S.H.A.P.E. is in the modest Hotel Astoria on the wide Champs Elysees. It is flanked on one side by a bar owned by the former French boxing champion, Georges Carpentier, on the other by a small cinema.

The Astoria's only previous claim to fame was that the Kaiser, planning a quick victory, picked the hotel as a grandstand for the German army's victory parade through Paris.

Security precautions at the Astoria are strict after two efforts by French Communists to storm the hotel. Giant six-foot-tall (and taller) American military policemen in

polished helmets and white silk mufflers check and cross-check a visitor's identification documents.

The Supreme Commander works in a large, semicircular office, No. 106 on the first floor, with a view from the bay windows on to the Arc de Triomphe. The General and his wife, Mamie Doud Eisenhower, are living in a six-roomed suite in the historical Trianon-Palace Hotel at Versailles, five miles from Marly Forest.

It was in the Trianon-Palace, on May 9, 1919, that Lloyd George, Clemenceau, President Wilson and Orlando presented the terms of the Versailles Treaty to the Germans.

Boussac's Land

It was not all smooth running at first with the S.H.A.P.E. site. American staff officers originally chose a site nearer Versailles. The land was owned by the wealthy French textile manufacturer and racehorse owner, Marcel Boussac, whose horses have played havoc on British tracks in recent years. M. Boussac said he would have trouble with Communists in his factories, if S.H.A.P.E. was built on his property.

So sixty acres of Marly Forest were chosen. It has been owned by the French Government since 1674, when Louis XIV decided it would make an ideal hunting ground.

There is still plenty of forest left for President Auriol to hunt in—providing the 600 troops from twelve nations do not join in.

More worried than the President is farmer Marcel Herault, part of whose farm—twenty-seven acres of wheat and seventeen acres of clover—has been included in "Eisenhowerville."

But, with a philosophical French shrug of the shoulders, Farmer Herault said: "Well, I'd rather be eaten with American sauce than with Russian sauce."

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Cray

Dealer, South

Game all

♠ A Q J 8 6 3

♥ 7

♦ Q J 9 7 2

♣ 10 9 7 4 3

W. N. E.

♠ K J 8 3

♥ A 10 9 4 2

♦ A K Q 6 5 3

♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

S.

♠ A 6 5

♥ 4

♦ Q J 9 8 6 4 3 2

♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

A freak deal from actual

play in which the effect of a

Three-bid was ruined by

North's wild bidding. South

opened Three Clubs and

North passed with a great

effort; but when East bid

Three Diamonds, passed by

South and West, he could

hold back no longer and

doubled. East retreated to

Three Hearts which West

raised to Four. North was

so annoyed at this turn of

events that he bid Four

Spades, South finally playing

the hand in Five Clubs

doubled.

West led ♠ A followed by

a trump. East returned ♠ 10

and South tried to minimise

the loss by finessing dummy's

♠ J—this resulted in a

penalty of 800. He could

actually make his contract

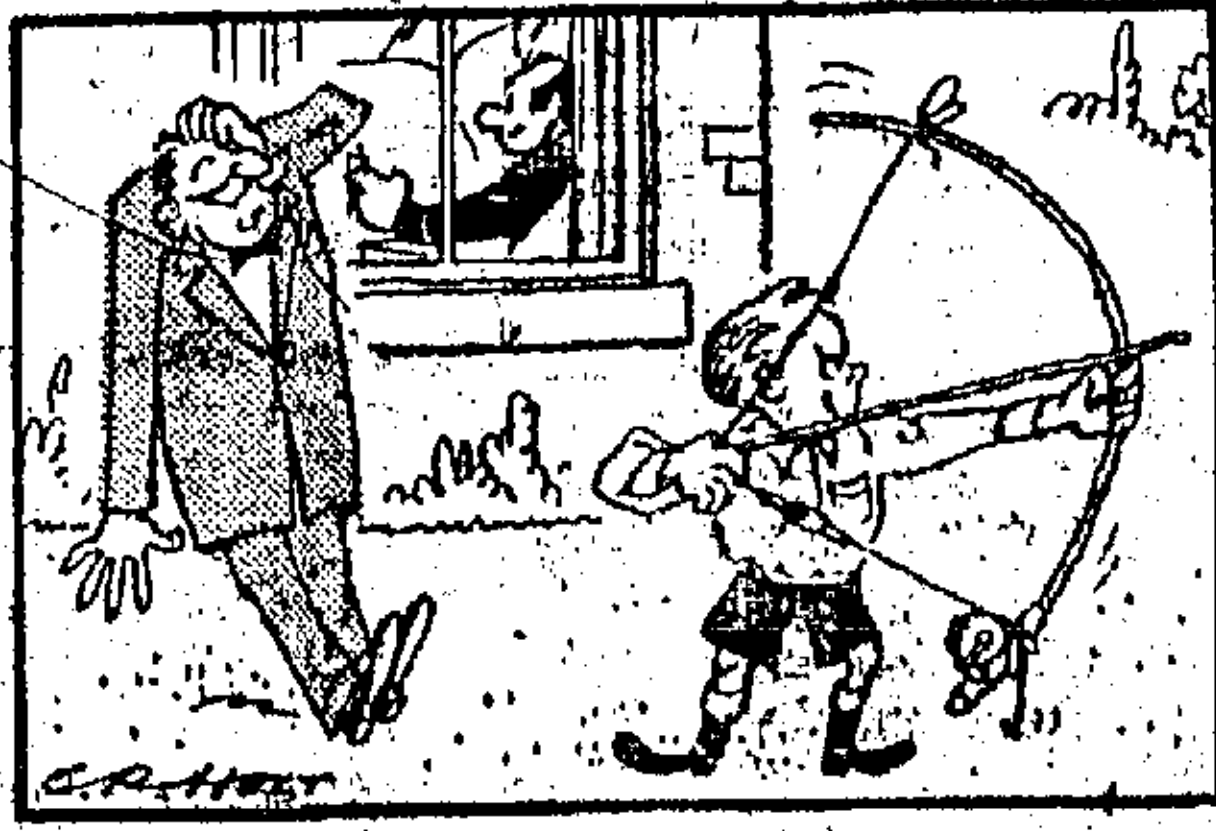
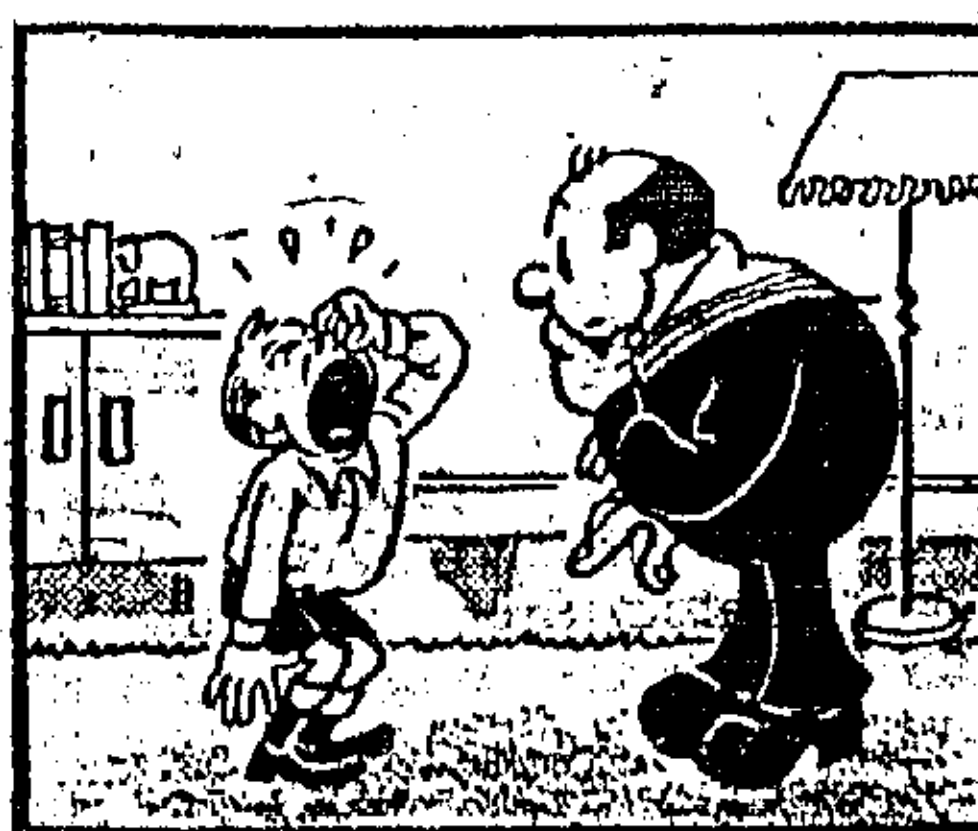
by playing ♠ A. As the cards

lie, East's best defence is to

return a Diamond at trick 3.

London Express Service

ABLE SEAMAN



By Holt

JAP PEACE PACT DIFFERENCES

Britain In Favour Of Restrictions On Japanese Economy

Dulles Aide Sent To London To Iron Out Problem

Washington, Mar. 19.

Mr John M. Allison, deputy to Mr John Foster Dulles, left by air for London this afternoon in a step designed to iron out the British-American differences over the text of the Japanese peace treaty.

Mr Allison will not negotiate directly with British officials, but is instructed to arm the United States Embassy in London with information to use in arguing against the British desire to slap treaty restrictions on the post-pact Japanese shipbuilding, shipping and textile manufactures.

An official announcement will be made later today by the State Department reporting that Mr Allison's mission is to brief the Embassy on the results of the recent Pacific tour of the Dulles Mission.

Official sources admitted that Mr Allison also would give the Embassy "ammunition" to counter the British desire to impose restrictions on the Japanese economy. Britain recently made representations to the United States against an American proposal for the treaty which would contain no limitations on the Japanese economy.

Britain told the United States they fear that Japan, within a few years, will again build up such a large merchant marine that she will be cutting into the trade of other maritime nations as before the war. Then Japan, due to low wages, to seamen, took shipping trade which Britain, the United States and Scandinavian countries considered to be rightfully theirs. Since the war, Japan, under the urging of American demands that the defeated enemy build up a self-sufficient economy, has cut into traditional British textile markets in Southeast Asia and in the Middle East. It is feared that unless some treaty restrictions are placed on Japan she will trade over more and more textile territory.

SHIPPING FEARS

Britain also wants restrictions on Japan's shipbuilding capacity. American officials argue that the British fears are groundless since there is no possibility in the foreseeable future for Japan to raise her industrial production to a point where she can menace others' economic interests.

In addition, Mr Dulles believes that restrictions in the peace treaty merely goad the defeated country into breaking them. He cites Hitler who used the restrictive parts of the Versailles Treaty as a demagogic platform. Mr Dulles pointed out that restrictions are useless unless somebody is willing to spend time, money and personnel to police them. He assured Britain and others that the United States does not intend to undertake the task. Mr Allison's visit to London will be only about two days.

WASHINGTON VIEWS

Washington, Mar. 19. Democratic Senator John Sparkman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Far East, said today he was "very satisfied" with the progress made so far in writing the Japanese peace treaty.

Mr Dulles met the Subcommittee for more than two hours this morning and outlined tentative proposals.

Senator Sparkman said the proposals include the views of several participating countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines, but they still must be circulated among the rest of interested nations.

They probably would include many other suggestions and

changes before the actual draft of the treaty is prepared.

"From our standpoint, it is to our advantage to complete the treaty as soon as possible. It is not necessary to get the agreement of all interested nations, although it would of course be better if we had it."

—United Press.

BIG FOUR EXCHANGES

(Continued from Page 1)

of the time being taken up by the translation of his speech.

He reiterated the seriousness with which the Soviet delegation approached the "Big Four" meeting and rejected charges that he was motivated by propaganda intentions.

KOREA WAR

Taking up a reference by Dr. Jessup to Korea, Mr. Gromyko said that "some countries" which had been engaged in an arms race had passed over to "direct acts of war" in Korea. This, he claimed, was one more argument to demonstrate how timely was the Russian proposal for a discussion on reduction of armaments.

Mr. Gromyko described as "unreproachable" Western charges that the Soviet Union had re-armed Germany.

He then listed what he termed Allied violations of the Potsdam Agreement. These violations included, he said, the liberation of a number of German war criminals and their appointment to positions of economic and military responsibility.

Mr. Gromyko then launched into a lengthy denunciation of Yugoslavia. He said that its Government was headed by "an agent of foreign governments". It had followed the United States in assuming the role of "protector of the Tito clique," he added.

"SIMPLE"

He concluded by saying that the Soviet attitude was "simple and justified." The fulfilment of the Potsdam Agreement should appear in the agenda and the questions of armaments reduction should be adopted as proposed in the Soviet agenda.

M. Parodi (France) replied that Mr. Gromyko had dwelt at great length on the Potsdam Agreement but had glossed over Korea briefly and hurriedly.

Mr. Gromyko's speeches had revealed such a wide divergence in approach between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers that it was clearly impossible for the deputies to attempt to bridge this gulf by discussing questions of substance, M. Parodi said.

He repeated the fear he had expressed before that a meeting of Foreign Ministers proceeding from a conference of deputies

STRIKE FEVER HITS PARISIANS

Paris, Mar. 19.

Paris gas and electricity unions tonight ordered an immediate strike for salary increases. In Parliamentary lobbies, rumours said that the Paris transport strike was on the verge of spreading to transport outside the city and possibly to other industries.

The French Prime Minister, Dr. Henri Queuille, called a Cabinet meeting tonight to discuss the critical transport situation.

The prospects were that the strike wave would spread rather than subside. Workers on all Parisian suburban lines were said to be on the verge of an unofficial stoppage and discontent was rife among long-distance firemen and drivers.

Suburban train operators closed down electric services from the two main stations, St. Lazare and Montparnasse, during the day after bringing passengers into the capital.

Special steam trains began a homeward shuttle service for them with passengers packed like sardines, and the Army laid on a suburban service with 300 lorries.

Some express drivers slowed down today and arrived in Paris hours late. Other trains were delayed when pointmen left the signals at the red before the main line junctions.

CABINET CALLED

Paris, Mar. 19.

The French Cabinet called an emergency meeting tonight to stop Paris' mushrooming strikes.

The surprise strike call by the gas and electrical unions came as the strike of bus and subway workers entered its fourth day and many workers on commuter railway lines went out in sympathy.

The new Radical Socialist Prime Minister, M. Henri Queuille, who had already conferred with leaders of non-Communist unions on wages and rising prices, immediately scheduled a Cabinet meeting for 2100 GMT. M. Queuille already had met once with members of his government.

It appeared today that the Communists would use growing labour discontent to try to tie up the economic life of the country if they could. M. Queuille emphasised that demands for wage boosts would not be fulfilled while strikes were in progress.

and conducted on the present lines would merely be made a forum for the exchange of accusations and counter-accusations.

M. Parodi said that Mr. Gromyko's speech today had only strengthened this fear.

At the end of today's session, Mr. Davies said that the British delegation rejected categorically Mr. Gromyko's accusations about violations of the Potsdam Agreement. He reserved the right of reply later in detail.



Princess Margaret welcomed by Lady Rothermere when she arrived at Olympia to visit the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition last week.—Central Press Photo.

CZECH REDS KEEP UP "PURGE"

Prague, Mar. 19.

The State Court, sitting in Karlovy (Carlsbad), has sentenced one Czechoslovak to death on charges of high treason, espionage, sabotage and other anti-State activities.

Three other Czechoslovaks were sentenced to hard labour for life, two to 25 years' imprisonment, a woman to 22 years and an unknown number of others to prison sentences ranging from six months to 20 years.

The defendants were alleged to have been in the service of "a foreign espionage agency" and to have carried out espionage activities in the western part of the Karlovy Vary region near the Czech-German border.

Other charges were that they formed an organisation which arranged the "mass escape of reactionaries" into Western Germany.

The defendants were described as belonging to the right-wing of the former Social Democratic and former Nationalist Socialist Parties.

The death sentence was meted out to Karel Brézina, who was convicted of supplying valuable industrial information to foreign spies with whom it was alleged, he was in direct contact.

Those sentenced to life imprisonment were Jindra Samcova, a woman, Josef Jisa and Zdenek Oberland.

The trial was held in Karlovy Vary from March 12 to 17.

—Reuter.

BOAC Sets Record

London, Mar. 19.

A British Overseas Airways Stratocruiser set up a new East to West trans-Atlantic commercial speed record early today, flying from London Airport to New York in 12 hrs. 36 mins.—Reuter.

Speaker The First Victim

London, Mar. 19.

The Parliamentary "cold war" here took toll today of a neutral — Colonel Douglas Clifton Brown, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Recent late night hearings have put a heavy strain on him. Today he was indisposed, and it was announced that he would not take up his post again until after Easter. He is 72.

Mr Winston Churchill said on Saturday that the Conservative Opposition would do their utmost to secure a general election at the earliest possible moment. Late sittings are part of the campaign to wear the Government down.—Reuter.

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